

Drawing Amendments

The drawings were objected to "because reference numbers in Figure 1 should be descriptive text labeled." In the Office Action Summary the drawings filed on April 4, 2001, i.e. the drawings originally accompanying the filing of the application, were indicated as the drawings being objected to by the Examiner. New formal drawings were submitted by applicant on July 12, 2001; a copy on the postcard that accompanied the submission of the drawings on July 12, 2001 as stamped by the USPTO is enclosed as proof of the earlier submission of these drawings. In the event that the drawings submitted on July 12, 2001 did not reach the Examiner's file, applicant encloses a copy of these drawings. It is these drawings that should currently be of record for consideration with the subject patent application.

Should applicant have misunderstood the Examiner's objection, clarification is requested. Clarification is sought as to what is meant by the reference numbers in Fig. 1 being descriptive text labeled. If this objection has not been overcome, applicant would welcome a specific example of the objection.

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the previously presented claims. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-12, 15-18, 20-22, 25, 26 and 28-30 are pending.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 25, 28 and 30.

Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement:

In the Office Action it was indicated that the documents (C1-C11) cited on page 1 of the two-page Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 4, 2001 were not found in the case. The subject IDS and the documents recited on the IDS were submitted with the original filing of the patent application. Applicant encloses a copy of the return receipt postcard date stamped as of April 4, 2001 by the USPTO that accompanied the original filing by applicant. The postcard recites that "1-copy each of 13 References", i.e. C1-C13, were enclosed with the original filing which was transmitted with a certificate of US express mailing. The 13 references correspond to references C1-C11 listed on page 1 and C12-C13 listed on page 2 of the IDS. Pursuant to MPEP § 503, a postcard receipt that identifies items which were being filed serves as prima facie evidence of receipt by the USPTO of such items as of the date stamped on the postcard by the USPTO. Thus, the documents cited in the IDS that accompanied the original filing of the patent application are deemed as having been received by the USPTO on April 4, 2001. It will be apparent that applicant is unaware of what happened to these documents after being received by the USPTO.

A copy of the items C1 and C6-C10 cited on page 1 of the IDS are enclosed. The other items referenced on page 1 of the IDS are not now currently available to applicant. No further

certification statements or fees are required by applicant in order for the enclosed documents identified on page 1 on the IDS to be entered and considered on the merits in the next Office Action since the IDS as originally filed satisfied the requirements for consideration of the cited items.

Claim Objections under 35 U.S.C. 112:

The recommendations associated with the objections to claims 9, 11, 19 and 29 have been complied with or rendered moot in view of the amendments made to the claims. Therefore, the objections are overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 103:

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7,9,11-12, 14, 16-17, 19, 21-22, 24, 26-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 103 as being anticipated/rendered obvious by Greenberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,974). These rejections are believed to be overcome with regard to the currently presented claims.

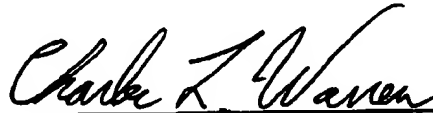
In summary, each of the currently pending independent claims should be allowable based on the incorporation of subject matter previously identified as being allowable in the previous Office Action. The following table indicates for each current independent claim subject matter incorporated therein from other noted claims.

Independent claim No.	Incorporated subject matter
1	3
8	1 and 7
11	13
18	11 and 17
20	11 and 19
21	23
25	21 and 24
28	21 and 27

Each independent claim is either a previously presented dependent claim directed to allowable subject matter that has been rewritten into independent form or a previously presented independent claim that has incorporated subject matter from a dependent claim indicated to have allowable subject matter. Thus, all of the currently presented independent claims should be in condition for allowance. All of the dependent claims should be allowable as depending from an allowable parent claim. Therefore, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles L. Warren". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Charles L. Warren
Attorney for Applicants
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Dated: March 3, 2005

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